

ABSTRACT

In a device to operate and handle a laboratory microchip to chemically process or
5 analyze substances, the microchip is on a chip holder (41) that is part of a first
assembly (42). The first assembly (42) also has an optical device (43) for contactless
detection of the results of the chemical processes carried out on the microchip. A
supply device (56) required to operate the microchip is in a module releasably
connected to a second assembly (44, 55). In particular, the second assembly (44, 55)
10 has an intermediate carrier (57) that is releasably connected to the supply device (56).
The intermediate carrier has continuous electrical paths (60) or connecting channels
that can bridge electrodes (58) or supply channels of the supply device (56) and the
assigned counterelectrodes (53) of the microchip. There are correspondingly
connecting lines (61) to bridge the supply of materials. On the one hand, the bridging
15 serves to prevent wear and soiling of the supply device (56) electrodes that arises upon
contacting the microchip. In addition, the intermediate carrier also serves to spatially
adapt the electrodes of the supply device (56) to the respective surface or spatial
arrangement of the electrode surfaces of the microchip. It is thereby advantageously
possible to adapt the entire measuring or operating device to special microchip layouts
20 merely by exchanging the intermediate carrier (57).

(Fig. 3)